

Utah State Board of Education

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Summary of Actions

January 12, 2024

Members Present: Kristan Norton, Cindy Davis, Brent Strate, Christina Boggess, and James Moss.

Staff Present: Scott Jones, Deborah Jacobson, and Cammy Wilcox

Others Present: Ben Rasmussen, Darin Nielsen, Cory Kanth, Howard Stephenson, Jared Felt, Jay Blain, Jennilyn Derbidge, Julie Lundell, Katrina Brinkley, Katy Challis, Mark Ernst, Melanie Durfee, Noralee Green, Paula Plant, Quinn Kellis, Rebecca Nielsen, Rick Gaisford, Royce Van Tassell, Sam Urie, Todd Hauber, Lark Reynolds, Aaron Brough, Jennifer Thronsdon, Nestor Rodriguez, Amber Wright, Jerry Record and Alex Farah.

Finance Committee Chair Norton called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

5.2 Public Comment

The Committee heard public comments from the following individuals:

- Item 2.3, Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL) Program:
 - o Senator Howard Stephenson,
 - o Granite School District Business Administrator Todd Hauber,
 - o Letter of support from Davis School District Director of Digital Teaching and Learning Ryan Craig Hansen.
- Item 2.6, Update and Action on Tooele County School District:
 - o Tooele County School District Superintendent Mark Ernst,
 - o Tooele County School District Business Administrator Lark Reynolds, and
 - o Utah Education Association Policy and Research Director/UniServ Coordinator Jay Blain.
- Item 2.7, Data Sharing for Advertising School Options and Potential Amendments to Rule:
 - o Utah Association of Public Charter Schools Executive Director Royce Van Tassell.
 - o Utah County Academy of Sciences Principal Jennilyn Derbidge

5.3 R277-726, Statewide Online Education Program (SOEP)(Amendment)

This item was postponed until the February Finance meeting.

5.4 Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL) Program

In the December 2023 board meeting, a MOTION TO REFER was made by Member Hart and seconded by Member Strate that the Board refer the Digital Teaching and Learning Program (DTL) agenda item back to the Finance Committee and to the full Board later that same day as a part of the Board's study session.

The Committee considered action on adding the DTL program into the WPU.

Committee Action

Member Strate motion:

That the Finance Committee advocates retaining DTL as a Related-to-Basic Program while maintaining the historical/existing funding model.

Motion: Passed 4 to 1 with Members Norton, Davis, Moss, and Strate in favor and Member Boggess opposed.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: The committee recommends that the Board advocates retaining DTL as a Related-to-Basic Program while maintaining the historical/existing funding model.

5.5 R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training, and Reporting (Amendment)

In the Board's December 2023 meeting, the Board voted and passed a recommendation to remove the School Plant Capital Outlay report from board rule. Draft 1 deletes Section 13 from the rule, which establishes the requirements for this report.

Staff presented R277-471, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53E-3-401(3); 53E-3-706; 53E-3-707; 10-9a-305; 53F-2-202(4)(d).

Committee Action

Member Moss motion:

That the Committee approves R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training, and Reporting, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for approval on second and final reading.

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: The committee recommends that the Board approves R277-471, School Construction Oversight, Inspections, Training, and Reporting, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

5.6 R277-486, Professional Staff Cost Program (Amendment & Continuation)

This rule is up for its five-year review (expiring 2/8/24).

Staff recommend one minor amendment to strike the prohibition on Line 42 of funding WPU's for an LE's interns. With this amendment, staff recommend continuation of the rule.

Staff presented R277-486, Draft 1, for consideration and approval.

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: Art X Sec 3; 53F-2-305(2); 53E-3-401(4).

Committee Action

Member Davis motion:

That the Committee continue and approve R277-486, Professional Staff Cost Program, Draft 1, on first reading and forward to the Board for continuation and approval on second and final reading.

Motion: Passed unanimously.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: The committee recommends that the Board continue and approve R277-486, Professional Staff Cost Program, Draft 1, on second and final reading.

5.7 Update on Action on Tooele County School District

As part of the mid-year update process, it was determined by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget, and the School Finance team of the USBE that the significant decline in enrollment is related to the decision by Tooele County School District (TCSD) in December 2022 to end their contract with MyTech High School at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. The three offices concurred that the enrollment decline was not due to natural demographics but the action of a local school board.

The State Superintendent and Deputy of Financial Operations discussed the issue with TCSD on November 28, 2023. The Executive Appropriations Committee voted on December 5 to amend the statute, effective in the current year, to clarify that the Prior Year Plus Growth hold harmless applies to factors beyond the control of an LEA and

does not apply to LEA determined reductions.

Since then and leading up to this meeting, the three offices have worked diligently. Staff reviewed the potential action on the part of the legislature and the USBE to help mitigate the impact on TCSD.

Committee Action

Member Davis motion:

That the Finance Committee recommends that the Board recommends to the legislature to support Tooele School District in mitigating loss during transition and in light of potential code changes or clarifications.

Motion: Passed unanimously. Member Boggess abstained from the vote.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: The committee recommends that the Board recommends to the legislature to support Tooele School District in mitigating loss during transition and in light of potential code changes or clarifications.

5.8 Data Sharing for Advertising School Options and Potential Amendments to Board Rule

This discussion item was first prompted by early-college high school charter schools seeking contact information for families so they can send materials to families to advertise their schools and programs. Historically, these charter schools have requested this family contact information from school districts, and the school districts provided the information. However, in recent years, school districts have been declining to share the data. This makes it difficult for the charter schools to advertise their programs.

Staff reviewed potential options that may address the issue above. This is the second version of the document that was presented to the Law and Licensing Committee on November 4, 2023. Version 2 includes additional options and notes about the fiscal impact of the various options.

Committee Action:

Member Moss motion:

That the Finance Committee directs staff to prepare a rule to address limitations on the use of the data, privacy restrictions, and associated costs for the requesting public school and bring it to the February Committee meeting for consideration of the rule and the options presented.

MOTION FOR THE BOARD: No motion for the Board.

5.9 Midyear Updates to the Minimum School Program (MSP)

This item was postponed until the February Finance meeting.

5.10 Recognition of Progress, Achievements, or Improvements

5.10.1 Program Monthly Report (PMR) on the Utah Schools Information Management System (USIMS)

The USIMS is an ongoing project that will modernize USBE legacy data systems and enable real-time access to data to inform decision making at all levels of the education system while also safeguarding against data breaches.

As part of the ongoing USIMS project, the Finance Committee receives monthly progress updates with a more detailed presentation once per quarter. No detailed presentation was provided this month.

5.10.2 Program Monthly Report (PMR) on the Utah Grants

Utah Grants is the Electronic Grants Management System utilized by the USBE for managing the full life cycle of grant funding. Utah Grants is used by USBE staff as well as LEAs and CBO partners for managing grant applications, awards, payments, and monitoring activities. The USBE works closely with system developers to continue to meet the expanding needs of the agency, while maintaining proper safeguards in the use and distribution of grant funds.

The Finance Committee receives a monthly Utah Grants PMR, with a more detailed presentation once per quarter, to account for project activities and priorities. No detailed presentation was provided this month.

5.11 Requests for Data and Information

This item was postponed until the February Finance meeting.

5.12 Quarterly Report from the School Children's Trust

This item was postponed until the February Finance meeting.

5.13 Adding a Priority Academic Area to School LAND Trust

This item was postponed until the February Finance meeting.

5.14 Educator Incentive Program Report

This item was postponed until the February Finance meeting.

5.15 Necessarily Existent Small Schools (NESS)/Rural Districts Study Status

This item was postponed until the February Finance meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.